

TUMOR OF THE CENTRUM OVALE.

By A. B. ARNOLD, M.D.,

BALTIMORE.

CASES of circumscribed lesion of the centrum ovale that give rise to marked symptoms are of great interest in regard to the general question concerning the localization of distinct functions of the brain. The following case is particularly instructive in respect to its clinical features, which fairly admitted of a precise diagnosis. Although the severe criticism of Nothnagel forbids, in our present state of knowledge, a discrimination between the symptomatology of cerebral lesions involving the pars frontalis of the centrum ovale and that of the cortex of the same region, yet, on the strength of Ferrier's experiments, I ventured to localize the disease, in this case, in the upper extremity of the ascending frontal convolution of the left hemisphere.

A colored man, about 50 years of age, was presented at the clinic, who gave the following history: About eight months ago, while at work, his right arm was suddenly seized with convulsive movements, and a few minutes afterward he lost his consciousness for a short time. On recovering from this state of coma he found that his right arm was paralyzed. Since then he had several such attacks. The apoplectiform seizures were always of short duration, but the spasmodic affection of his arm lasted much longer, and occurred more frequently. Fifteen years ago he contracted syphilis. There are a number of suspicious cicatrices on his legs,

but no other visible signs of the constitutional disease. The only symptom which the case presented at the time of the examination was an incomplete paralysis of the right arm. None of the cranial nerves were affected, and no psychical disturbances were noticed.

The man remained in the hospital until his death, which occurred at the end of the fifth week from the date of his admission. During that time he got large doses of the iodide of potassium. Under this treatment the spasms of the affected limb ceased, but the paralysis persisted. On the day preceding his death he became delirious, and finally fell into a stupor from which he could not be roused.

Autopsy fourteen hours after death. The cranial bones and membranes have a normal appearance. The substance of the brain is of an unusually firm consistence. On making several sections of the centrum ovale of the left hemisphere, a tumor of the size of a large hazel-nut was discovered, occupying the uppermost regions of the pars frontalis and pars posterior of the fissure of Rolando, in close proximity to the cortex. The greater portion of the adventitious growth was situated in the ascending frontal convolution. It seemed to consist of a central portion, having all the marks of a gummata, surrounded by a grayish, softened mass. A similar tumor, but not enveloped by softened tissue, was found embedded in the centrum ovale of the right hemisphere, occupying the median portion of the superior parietal lobule.